

**SOC SOUTH
CHANGE OF COMMAND
1 JUNE 2005**

**DISTINGUISHED GUESTS—FELLOW FLAG
OFFICERS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN-- FRIENDS
AND FAMILY MEMBERS--SOLDIERS-- SAILORS--
AIRMEN-- AND CIVILIANS OF SPECIAL
OPERATIONS COMMAND-SOUTH – GOOD
MORNING.**

**I'D LIKE TO BEGIN TODAY BY RECOGNIZING
HOMESTEAD MAYOR ROSCOE WARREN.**

**THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE THIS MORNING
AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED
HOSPITALITY-- SUPPORT -- AND COOPERATION.
YOUR PARTNERSHIP IS INDICATIVE OF THE
WONDERFUL SUPPORT WE RECEIVE FROM THE
HOMESTEAD COMMUNITY AND FROM SOUTH
FLORIDA.**

**A CHANGE OF COMMAND IS A SPECIAL DAY
IN A MILITARY ORGANIZATION. IT NOT ONLY
MARKS A CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP—IT GIVES
US AN OPPORTUNITY TO REFLECT AND
RECOGNIZE THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE**

**PAST AND RENEW OUR COMMITMENT TO THE
FUTURE.**

**SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND - SOUTH
WAS ACTIVATED IN AUGUST OF 1986 AS
SOUTHERN COMMAND'S FIRST SUBORDINATE
UNIFIED COMMAND. FOR ALMOST TWO
DECADES, THEY HAVE PLANNED OUR SPECIAL
OPERATIONS FORCES' INVOLVEMENT IN THE
REGION – AND THEY HAVE BEEN SOUTHCOM'S
911 FORCE– THE QUIET PROFESSIONALS WE
CALL ON WHEN WE NEED IMMEDIATE ACTION.**

THERE IS A PHRASE IN BOXING WHERE A FIGHTER IS DESCRIBED AS “PUNCHING ABOVE HIS WEIGHT.” THAT TERM APPLIES TO A SMALLER BOXER WHO—IN SPITE OF HIS SIZE—HITS LIKE A HEAVY WEIGHT. TO ME—THAT PHRASE ALSO DESCRIBES SOCSOUTH. ON AN AVERAGE DAY SOCSOUTH COMMANDS AND CONTROLS ONLY ABOUT 350 PEOPLE – BUT YOUR IMPACT IN DEFENDING AND PROTECTING OUR SECURITY INTERESTS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN IS ENORMOUS. SOCSOUTH HAS A PROUD HISTORY OF

**CONTINGENCY RESPONSE – FROM OPERATION
JUST CAUSE IN PANAMA-- TO OPERATION SAFE
BORDER WHERE THEY MONITORED THE
CEASEFIRE IN THE ECUADOR-PERU BORDER
WAR-- TO OPERATIONS THAT HAVE
SUPPORTED PLAN COLOMBIA OVER THE PAST
FEW YEARS.**

**AND JUST LAST YEAR—THEY PLAYED A
VITAL ROLE IN OUR EFFORTS TO RESTORE
SECURITY AND STABILITY IN HAITI – ALL WHILE
THEY WERE SIMULTANEOUSLY MOVING THEIR
HEADQUARTERS FROM PUERTO RICO TO**

**HOMESTEAD. THOSE ACCOMPLISHMENTS
SPEAK VOLUMES ABOUT THE CAPABILITY AND
PROFESSIONALISM OF THE MEN AND WOMEN
OF SOCSOUTH-- AND TO THE ABLE
LEADERSHIP OF ITS OFFICERS AND NCOs.**

**TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS OF THIS
MAGNITUDE-- GREAT LEADERSHIP IS A MUST.
GENERAL SAL CAMBRIA HAS BEEN MORE THAN
UP TO THE CHALLENGE. HIS YEARS OF
EXPERIENCE AS A SPECIAL OPERATOR IN
LATIN AMERICA AND HIS CLEAR**

**UNDERSTANDING OF THE CULTURAL AND
POLITICAL NUANCES OF THE REGION HAVE
MADE HIM A SUPERB COMMANDER AND A
TRUSTED ADVISOR.**

**FROM ELLIPSE ECHO-- THE LARGEST
SPECIAL OPERATIONS FIELD EXERCISE IN
LATIN AMERICA—TO FUERZAS COMANDO—THE
FIRST-EVER COMBATING TERRORISM
EXERCISE IN THE SOUTHCOM AREA OF
RESPONSIBILITY—TO COORDINATING
SECURITY FOR THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED**

**STATES WHEN HE VISITED COLOMBIA—SAL
CAMBRIA AND SOCSOUTH DID IT ALL. NO
MISSION WAS MORE IMPORTANT, THOUGH,
THAN OPERATION SECURE TOMORROW IN
HAITI.**

**IN HAITI -- WE USED SPECIAL OPERATORS
TO BE SOUTHCOM'S EYES AND EARS AND TO
COVER THE GAPS BETWEEN UNITS. SAL
CAMBRIA AND SOCSOUTH WERE CRITICAL
PARTS OF THE SUCCESS OF THE
MULTINATIONAL INTERIM FORCE. THEY
PROVIDED INVALUABLE INTELLIGENCE -- THEY**

**PREVENTED VIOLENCE AND SAVED LIVES --
AND THEY SET THE CONDITIONS FOR THE
UNITED NATIONS FORCE TO COME IN AND
ASSUME THE SECURITY MISSION.**

**BOTH SAL AND SOCSOUTH HAVE HAD A
GREAT PARTNER—FRIEND-- AND ADVOCATE IN
JANA CAMBRIA. THE FACT IS – JANA KNOWS
WHAT SOLDIERING IS ALL ABOUT BECAUSE –
SHE’S A SOLDIER HERSELF—SERVING
PROUDLY IN THE ARMY RESERVE. JANA HAS
BEEN A DRIVING FORCE IN FAMILY READINESS
GROUP ACTIVITIES AND HAS BEEN A**

CORNERSTONE OF THE SOCSOUTH TEAM. SHE HAS BEEN A GRACIOUS HOST OF MANY DIGNITARIES AND MILITARY LEADERS-- SHE HAS BEEN -- AND CONTINUES TO BE -- A TRUE CONTRIBUTOR TO THIS COMMAND AND THIS COMMUNITY.

SAL AND JANA, THESE ACCOMPLISHMENTS ARE A GREAT LEGACY AND WE ARE PROUD OF YOU. I'M GLAD TO BE ABLE TO SAY THAT AS SAL AND JANA ARE LEAVING SOCSOUTH, THEY ARE NOT MOVING TOO FAR. SAL WILL BE MY J-3 -- DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS -- AT SOUTHERN

**COMMAND. LINDA AND I ARE THRILLED THAT
THEY WILL CONTINUE TO BE PART OF THE
SOUTHCOM TEAM AND THAT WE WILL
CONTINUE TO BENEFIT FROM THEIR SELFLESS
SERVICE AND FOCUS ON PEOPLE. SAL, I CAN'T
PROMISE YOU ANOTHER RED SOX WORLD
SERIES WIN, BUT I CAN PROMISE YOU A
CHALLENGING AND REWARDING EXPERIENCE
AT SOUTHCOM.**

**THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT HERE AT
SOC SOUTH. YOUR NEW COMMANDER –**

**GENERAL CHARLIE CLEVELAND-- IS AN
ABSOLUTELY OUTSTANDING LEADER; HE IS
EXCEPTIONALLY QUALIFIED FOR THIS UNIQUE
COMMAND OPPORTUNITY. HE BRINGS A
DIVERSE BACKGROUND WITH STRONG
LEADERSHIP SKILLS – AN OPERATIONAL
FOCUS AND A KEEN UNDERSTANDING OF
TROOPS AND FAMILIES AND WHAT MAKES
THEM TICK. CHARLIE HAS INCREDIBLY VAST
SPECIAL OPERATIONS EXPERIENCE IN BOTH
THE 10TH AND 7TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUPS.**

**CHARLIE-- MARY ANN – AND MATTHEW –
WELCOME. AS YOU WELL KNOW -- YOU ARE
JOINING AN ACCOMPLISHED TEAM OF
PROFESSIONALS. THIS WILL BE A UNIQUE
LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU WITH
NEW CHALLENGES-- MANY YOU CAN PLAN AND
PREPARE FOR-- MANY YOU SIMPLY CANNOT.
YOU WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PUT
INTO PRACTICE ALL THE GREAT SKILLS YOU
HAVE LEARNED AND HONED THROUGHOUT
YOUR CAREER. YOU HAVE AMERICA’S FINEST
WORKING FOR YOU HERE AT SOCSOUTH.**

**YOUR GIFTED LEADERSHIP WILL ENABLE
SOC SOUTH TO REACH EVEN HIGHER LEVELS
OF MISSION SUCCESS. THEY DESERVE IT AND
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE EXPECT NOTHING
LESS.**

**FOR THE MEN AND WOMEN OF SOC SOUTH--
STAND TALL – TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR
ACCOMPLISHMENTS. KNOW THAT YOUR
EFFORTS CONTINUE TO HAVE A PROFOUND
IMPACT ON THE SECURITY OF OUR NATION AND
ON THE WORLD. I KNOW YOU WILL GIVE**

**GENERAL CLEVELAND THE SAME SUPPORT
YOU HAVE GIVEN GENERAL CAMBRIA. KEEP
UP THE GREAT WORK. GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU
AND GOD BLESS THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA.**